

Koh: Don't just criticise

'GIVE ME CONCRETE FACTS, FIGURES AND REALISTIC SOLUTIONS'

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KUALA LUMPUR: Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon yesterday told his critics not to merely criticise but to substantiate their criticism by providing facts.

"Don't only criticise, if (I am) wrong, give me concrete facts and figures ... Give me realistic solutions," said Koh, who is Gerakan deputy president, in his winding speech at the party's 55th national delegates conference

Koh's leadership in Penang has been under fire recently with some Umno leaders accusing him of marginalising the Malays in the state.

Demands have also been made to have the chief ministership rotated among the BN component parties.

Yesterday, Umno Youth deputy chief Khairy Jamaluddin reportedly said Malays in Penang had been left behind and were only able to live in Balik Pulau a rural district in Penang.

Citing a newspaper's editorial, Koh said:

"The issue in Penang is uneven development... This is not something unique in Penang, but also happens in other states," he said.

"The issue (of poverty) is affecting all ethnic groups ...

Don't make this issue as a racial issue; this is not a racial issue! We take care of all communities regardless of ethnicity," he said.

"It is impossible to turn every part of Penang to be like George Town. The same applies to Balik Pulau which has its own advantage. It can be turned into an eco-tourism site," he added.

Without naming anyone, Koh said in order to uphold the BN spirit, he did not want to rebut the criticism with extreme remarks.

"We appeal to component parties to continue the BN spirit Only under the leadership of the prime minister can we fulfil our national vision and mission," he said.

He said although it is hard to get consensus among different ethnic groups on issues, the party will continue to work towards fighting for all

communities.

"Problems affecting a community is not unique to that community, it should be seen as the problem of all," he added.

Koh, who is to take over the presidency when the party president Datuk Serf Dr Lim Keng Yaik steps down in April, also urged Lim to continue giving advice to the party."

"Please continue to be our coach: I may be a captain but please stay on as our football coach," he said to a round of applause

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